

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 2, 3, 7-14 and 16 are present in this application. By this Amendment, claims 2, 3, 7-14 and 16 have been amended, and claims 1, 5, 15 and 17-22 have been canceled. Reconsideration in view of the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Entry of this Amendment is proper under 37 C.F.R. §1.116 because the Amendment: (a) places the application in condition for allowance for the reasons discussed herein; (b) does not raise any new issues requiring further search and/or consideration (since the amendments amplify issues previously discussed throughout prosecution and raised by the Examiner in the previous Office Action; (c) does not present any additional claims without canceling the corresponding number of finally-rejected claims; and (d) places the application in better form for appeal, should an appeal be necessary. The Amendment was necessary and was not earlier presented because it is made in response to arguments raised in the final rejection. Entry of the Amendment is thus respectfully requested.

Applicant acknowledges with appreciation the indication of allowable subject matter in claims 15 and 16. Without conceding the rejections on pages 2-4 of the Office Action, claim 14 has been amended to include the subject matter of allowable claim 15, and claim 16 has been amended to depend from claim 14. Additionally, dependent claims 2, 3 and 7-13 have been amended to depend directly or indirectly from independent claim 14. The remaining claims have been canceled.

IYER

Appl. No. 09/620,134

July 20, 2004

Applicant thus respectfully submits that the rejections over prior art are moot.

Withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested.

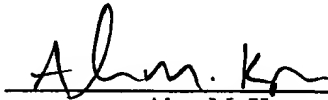
In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that the claims are patentable over the art of record and that the application is in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner believe that anything further is desirable in order to place the application in condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicant's undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Prompt passage to issuance is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

NIXON & VANDERHYE P.C.

By:



Alan M. Kagen
Reg. No. 36,178

AMK:jls

1100 North Glebe Road, 8th Floor
Arlington, VA 22201-4714
Telephone: (703) 816-4000
Facsimile: (703) 816-4100